THE SHAKERITE

November 26, 2007 • Volume 78 • Issue 3• Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Scavenging for Seconds

• Get to lunch late and you may leave hungry. Students and the Editorial Board expose lunchtime issues.

Shaker Speaks, Page 5

GAINING APPROVAL

WHEN HE'S NOT IN ENGLISH CLASS, SENIOR COLSON BAKER IS RHYMING HIS WAY TO THE TOP OF THE RAP INDUSTRY.

PAGE 6

SHAKER SAFETY

IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT CLEVELAND SCHOOL SHOOTING, NOTEWORTHY EXPLORES THE ROLE OF SHAKER SECURITY GUARDS.

PAGE 4

FASHION FRENZY

THE BEAT EXPLORES THE WIDE WORLD OF SHAKER FASHION. FROM TEACHER TRENDS TO COLORFUL SHOES, IT'S ALL THERE.

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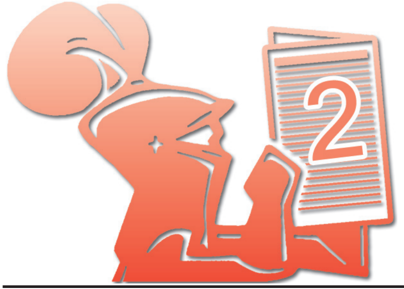


COVER SHOT

Freshman D'cember Metcalfe chooses among cafeteria offerings during eighth-period lunch Nov. 16. Because sixth-period lunch has the largest enrollment, eighth-period lunch sometimes runs short of food. Photo by Su Dong.

EDITORS' NOTE

Freedom for granted

Brandon, an editor for a high school newspaper from northern Virginia, raised his hand with an interesting predicament. "We got censored for an article on censorship," he said. And while administrative censorship seemed a foreign concept to us, it soon became evident that it is a national issue.

We became aware of Brandon situation when nine Shakerite editors traveled to Philadelphia for the National Scholastic Press Association's fall high school journalism convention. We attended sessions on topics ranging from writing with humor to mastering Photoshop techniques to developing interview skills, learning from knowledgeable speakers and fellow high school journalists. Over two days, session leaders encouraged hard-hitting investigative journalism and exploration of often-taboo issues such as teen pregnancy and eating disorders.

WESLEY LOWERY

Yet in each session we encountered students who were restricted by their high school administration's policies concerning content. In some cases, administrators review newspaper articles once – and sometimes twice – and censor them to prevent articles they deem inappropriate from being printed, while other times they simply read stories prior to publication and suggest changes due to content.

ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN

In most cases, anything that speaks negatively about the school or discusses touchy topic is subject to censorship.

These unfortunate journalists are unable to cover issues such as teen drinking and the school budget. Their newspapers suffer from lack of substantial stories, watered down content, or both.

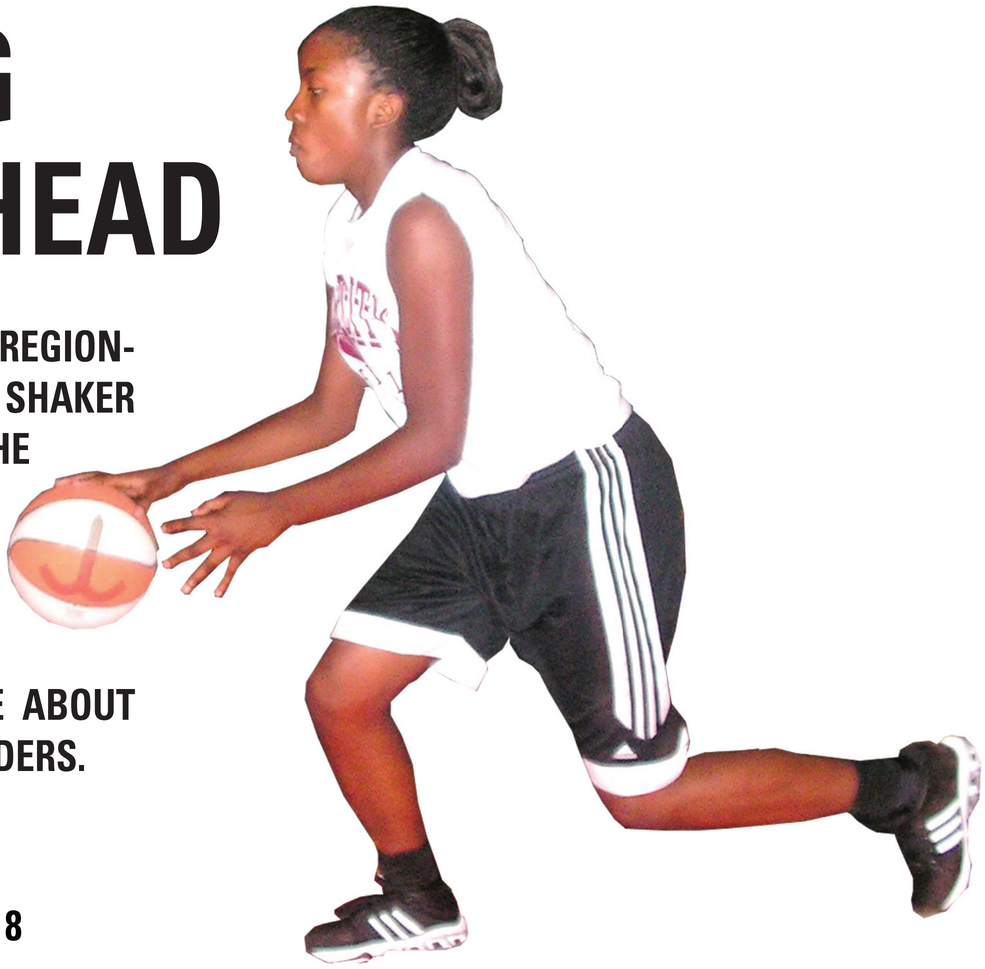
The Shakerite, thanks to the Board of Education, is deemed "an open forum for student expression," granting us control of The Shakerite's content – even that which casts a critical eye on the district. And though they may not always agree with what we print, the district has been supportive of our efforts to exercise our First Amendment rights, even listening to some of our critiques (most recently the decision to remove the "SHS" glass-block wall following the September Shakerite article).

As we continue our coverage, we hope to further to push the limits, covering topics that you will find intriguing while maintaining a balance between investigative journalism and respectful reporting.

Listening to the distressing censorship stories of our peers only helped us to realize how good we truly have it, motivating us to avoid sensationalism and to continue reporting fully and fairly on these issues. If we don't make the most of our rights now, we may not have the opportunity later.

We hope you, the readers, also appreciate the content delivered each month in The Shakerite. While you may not always agree with our latest Ensemble Show review, or you may not have been interested by our sexual education spread, it could be worse. Instead of marijuana, you could be reading about the new math curriculum.

LOOKING AHEAD



AFTER A LOSS IN THE REGIONAL SEMIFINAL LAST YEAR, SHAKER LOOKS TO REBOUND. THE RAIDERS ARE LED BY A STRONG FRONTCOURT, INCLUDING JUNIOR KARISMA PENN. TURN TO RAIDER ZONE FOR MORE ABOUT THE STATE TITLE CONTENDERS.

RAIDER ZONE, 8

ALL EYES ON YOU

NOTEWORTHY DISCOVERS THE REASONS BEHIND THE ADDITION OF 90 NEW SECURITY CAMERAS

NOTEWORTHY, 4

THE SHAKERITE

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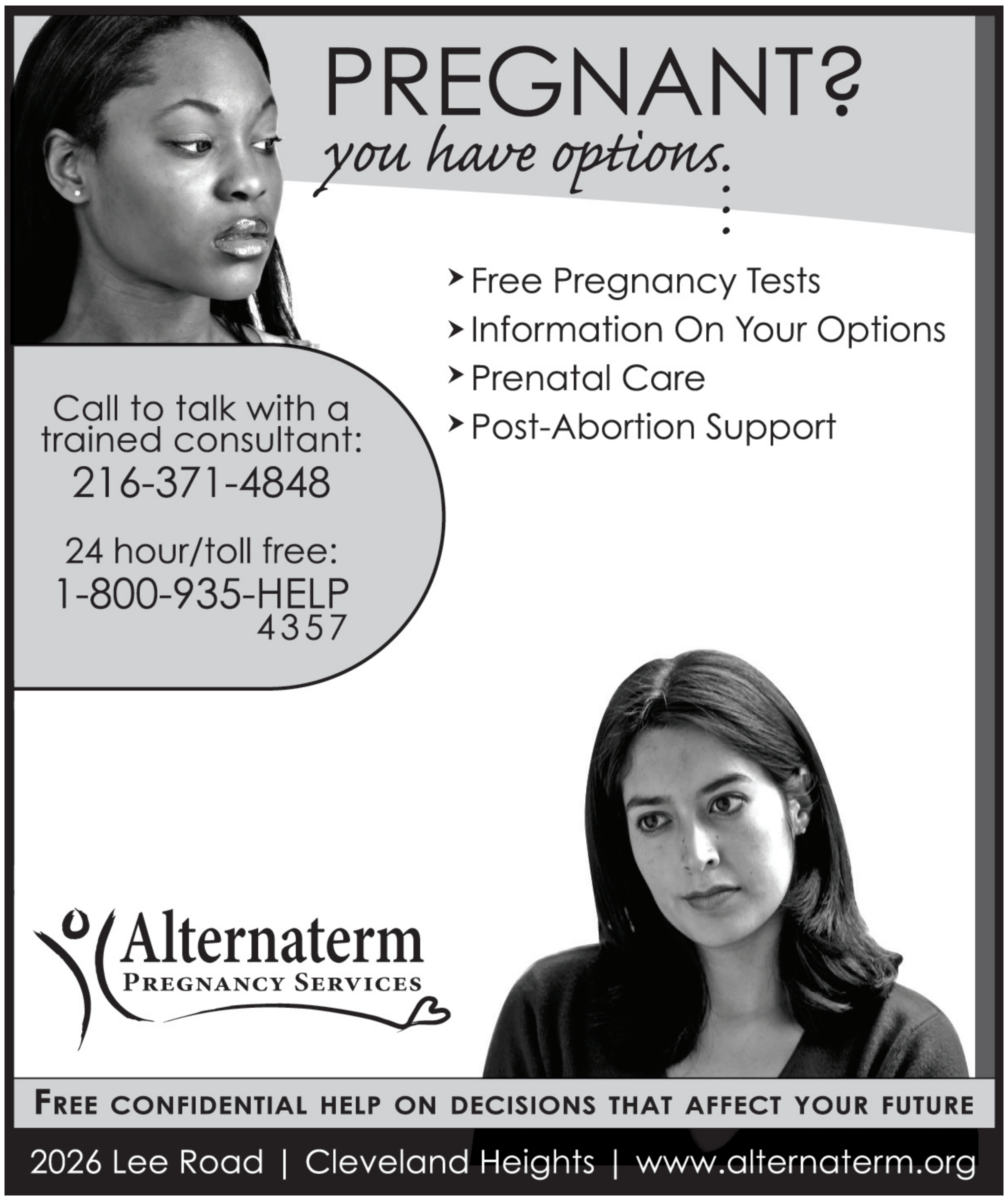

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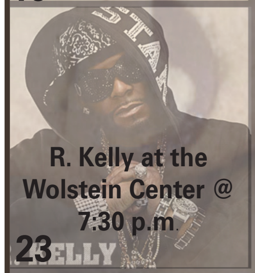
This Month

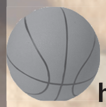
11.26.07

TIME TO GET AHEAD

Winter break is fast approaching — time to chill out, kick it with friends and have some pretty good times. With that said, it's important to remember that finals are coming up. Even though winter break is everyone's favorite time to relax, it's a crucial time to study. So bust out those hefty review packets you tossed under your bed the second you got them and get to work. Don't know where to start? Check out how-to-study.com, where you'll find lots of helpful hints from how to make effective flashcards to how to minimize pre-testing anxiety. When all your friends are stressing out the week you get back to school, you'll be able to enjoy yourself, knowing that you're already prepared for exams.

DECEMBER





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Hanukkah begins at sunset	5	6 Hockey vs. US at home @ 6:00 p.m.	7	8
9	10 Human Rights Day	11	12 Hanukkah ends	13	14 Barry Manilow at The Q @ 8 p.m.	15
16	17	18	19 Women's Basketball vs. McKinley at home @ 7:30 p.m.	20	21 Look On The Bright Side Day	22
23 R. Kelly at the Wolstein Center @ 7:30 p.m.	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Men's Basketball vs. Glenville at home @ 7:30 p.m.	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve					

Cookies, more than just dessert

Making cookies is a fun, tasty way to take a break from studying, and the first week of December is "Cookie Cutter Week." Yes, that's right -- an entire week dedicated to making fun cutout cookies.

This week couldn't come at a better time, with the weather getting colder, there's nothing quite like delicious homemade cookies fresh out of the oven.

Not sure what to do with that awkward period of time on a Saturday afternoon before going out that night? Spend some time with friends making and decorating cookies. If you don't have any cookie cutters and you'd like to buy some for a fair price, check out Target, which offers all sorts of cookie cutters ranging from zoo animals to snowflakes for $15 or less.

If you're feeling a bit too lazy too make your cookies completely from scratch, Betty Crocker makes a delicious cookie mix. All you need is a stick of butter, an egg, and a tablespoon of water and you're 20 minutes from oven-fresh homemade-ish cookies. The mix comes in a variety of flavors including chocolate chip for the more traditional taste buds or chocolate peanut butter chip for the more daring.

And if you're craving an even more exotic treat, check out epicurious.com where you will find hundreds of recipes ranging from lemon poppy-seed sandwich cookies to pistachio apricot oatmeal cookies.

Now if you're super lazy and can't imagine making anything for yourself, check out Cookies By Design at Legacy Village. This fantastic cookie shop makes all sorts of cookies including their famous sugar cookies with decadent decorations made up of wildly colored frosting.

Looking for a gift? Cookies By Design offers tons of different gift baskets including baskets with Disney character cookies, racecar cookies -- even a basket with various technologically shaped cookies (think iPod and TV cookies) and they're all equally appetizing!

If you need a bit more motivation before heading to the kitchen, investigate the possibility of cookies for extra credit. German Teacher Keith Szalay offers extra credit to students who bring the class authentically German cookies. Authentic German cookies include snickerdoodle and almond crescents. With a little baking, you can earn enough extra credit to add about an entire percentage point to your grade. (If you bring some in for your class, drop a few by Room 231 and we'll review them in next month's Shakerite!)

For recipes, Szalay recommends Googling "authentic German cookies."

And we all know how tasty raw cookie dough is. . . even if it qualifies you for salmonella poisoning. (What's a little nausea in the big cookie picture?) So if decorating cookies isn't really your calling, at least make the dough. You might find half of it's missing before you even get to put it in the oven.

Compiled By Abby Schiller

Chocolate, Chocolate Chip Cookies

allrecipes.com

1/2 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup white sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup cocoa powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
Allrecipes.com

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350ºF
2. In large bowl, beat butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt; stir into the butter mixture until well blended. Mix in the chocolate chips. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or just until set. Cool and enjoy.

$250.00

The amount of money per window it will cost the district to replace the custom-made window shades at the High School due to complaints from teachers that the shades allow too much light and make it difficult to watch TV and use overhead projectors. "It makes it difficult to teach when [the kids] can't see the graphing calculator," math teacher Lori White said.

SHAKER'S SECURITY SCOOP

• Change in protocol is unapparent after Cleveland SuccessTech shooting

BY NATALIE VICCHIO
STAFF REPORTER

Shaker's proximity to the Oct. 10 SuccessTech Academy shooting raised some students' concerns, but the event has prompted few changes to the high school's security policies and procedures. Asa Coon, 14, shot and wounded four people and then killed himself.

The incident occurred last month after his suspension over a fight with a fellow student. On the second day of his suspension, he walked into SuccessTech Academy with loaded guns.

In the days after the shooting, Principal Michael Griffith was approached by female students who had questions about school security. "The whole [SuccessTech shooting] is upsetting," Griffith said, who took the girls to the front door and introduced them to security guard James Edge in order to assure them that if they had concerns, people were available.

However, some students, such as junior Jonathan Jamison, don't find the presence of a security guard comforting. "People walk in this building all the time," Jamison said. "The security guards are really there for show."

Contrarily, freshman Gabrielle Bell feels safe and reassured by security personnel.

"They take care of [situations] before [they] get out of hand," she said. Griffith believes that were there a school shooting at Shaker it would be a reflection of student instability and not the preparedness of the security staff. "I think 99 percent of these [school shootings] are not [by] outsiders. [They] are students," he said.

According to Head of Security Vic Ferrell, Shaker has issued one update to its policy in response to the SuccessTech shooting: Suspended Shaker students must be kept off school premises, and security is responsible for keeping track of these students.

The security guards' power is limited to very few situations. "If a kid is hurting himself or another kid, it is the only time to physically intervene," Ferrell said.

"Keeping security and keeping a learning environment" is security's main obligation, according to Ferrell, who has been supervising security guards and coordinating security for six years.

He has a staff of 12 security guards stationed through the building. According to Farrell, training and experience are key to security personnel's approach to problems. He instructs them through his Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training program. "It's a good job and [security guards] tend to stay around," Ferrell said. Mike Gale, the district director of security, hires all of the security guards for the past four years.

"Not [all security guards] can work with youths," he said.

Gale tries to find people with experience and who want to work with young people. Along with guards, the district assigned two police officers to be on school grounds during the day.

Su Dong • The Shakerite

SHAKER SECURITY GUARD James Edge stands at the main entrance monitoring students after school. Other security guards are stationed throughout the school during 50-minute class periods to make sure students are not roaming the halls. Security guards are instructed to respond using the steps outlined in the Non-Violent Crisis Intervention program.

Someone's watching you everywhere you go

BY DIANA JACK
THE BEAT EDITOR

Whether you're skipping class, leaving school early, walking down the up staircase or roaming the hallways during a lunch period, one of 90 new surveillance cameras could be watching you.

These new security tools are a new wave of installations, part of a security plan that has been in place since about a decade ago.

The plan and the updates in conjunction with it are the responsibility of the district security.

Principal Michael Griffith said that while the majority of the current 40 cameras are in places that are hard to monitor, such as back staircases and the athletic hallway, the new cameras will be placed all over the school.

Ferrell said that he was the person in charge of choosing the locations of the cameras, which are strategic for making sure coverage is continual.

"We went and saw how they would look in the various locations so the whole hallway is covered as much as possible," he said.

Griffith said that he is trying to limit the privacy issues that may have come with increased surveillance.

"We won't put them in classrooms and never anywhere like restrooms," Griffith said.

Junior Jeremy Shapero said the extra securty cameras won't invade too much on his privacy, and that the measure isn't really necessary.

"It's fine the way it is," he said.

The cameras, rather than being viewed 24/7 by a staff member, serve as a resource for reviewing incidents that occur throughout the building.

They will be looped to a digital viewing system in the security office.

Griffith said that the reviewing system would help assess what happens in fights or other altercations.

"It will help to better address everyone that has an involvement," he said.

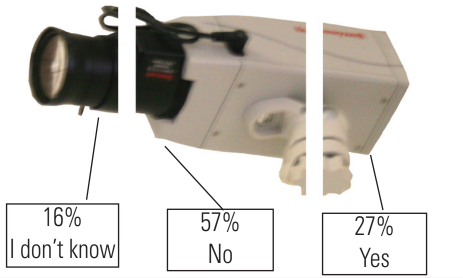
Ferrell said that while he old system helped catch mishaps, the new one will be even better.

"[They help] with fights, and make sure if they did something, we can make sure of what happened and dispel false information," he said.

As hopeful as the principal may be about the effect of the increased security, students still think that the measure won't change much about the way security works.

"I don't think they [the cameras] will make much of an impact. They [school officials] don't even use the ones they have already," senior Katherine Foster said.

Will you act differently when there are more cameras?



A scientific telephone poll of 100 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 9.8 percent

Infographic by Alexa Sykes

'SHS' GLASS BLOCK SCRAPPED

• The three unpopular letters displayed boldly on the new glass-block wall in the cafeteria turned out to be only a temporary addition.

After deliberation among Principal Michael Griffith, architect Jim Neville, Business Administrator Bob Kreiner and Superintendent Mark Freeman, the SHS was deemed undesirable and will be removed by the end of November.

According to Head of Communications Peggy Caldwell, the wall just didn't turn out the way the administration hoped. "We thought it would be a nice, decorative element, but the scale of the wall didn't permit us to put SHHS, which would have been the best way to do it," she said.

Both students and administration seemed satisfied with the three letters' removal.

"I'm just glad we're not Solon High School anymore," sophomore Murphy Metheny said. Griffith agreed, "It wasn't representative of the school . . . I am quite happy that it will be fixed," he said.

Fortunately, the work will not impede the scheduled completion of the cafeteria renovation. According to Griffith, the new wall will be ready to greet students upon return from Thanksgiving break, and the entire cafeteria will be finished Jan. 7.

Kreiner, who was alarmed by all of the attention the new wall received, explained the re-construction.

"The tiles that are shaded and currently create the SHS are being removed and replaced with clear blocks, so that the entire wall will be uniform and look the same," he stated in an e-mail interview.

Christian-Klopper, the firm that designed the wall, is currently securing pricing for the work, but Neville, of Christian-Klopper, seemed unsure about the final cost.

"I don't know what the cost will be . . . we have been asked to find out," he stated.

However, Caldwell seemed positive that there would be no extra funding necessary for the wall.

"There will be no additional cost to have it fixed," she said. "It will be absorbed in the complete cost of the cafeteria renovation."

By Alexa Sykes

BOARD OF ELECTIONS BREAKS DOWN AGAIN

The Nov. 6 election only added yet another item to the laundry list of problems facing the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Their late verification of election results continued the abominable record that the board has compiled since 2004. In addition, the election in November attracted extremely low voter turnout, so the problems will only increase when the better attended primary happens in March. Cuyahoga County is one of the most densely populated counties in the state, and it is high time to do whatever it takes to fix the voting system.

CAFETERIA CUISINE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

guest 'rite

NIGEL PHILLIPS

Lunchtime?

More like snack time.

This year the administration, influenced by the PTO, decided that it would be in the best interest of the students to institute what they call "portion control."

Portion control limits the amount of food we receive when we purchase lunch, i.e. why you can now count how many fries you get.

Not surprisingly, the new policy has met much resentment from the student body.

Asked about the rationing of food, Principal Michael Griffith said that he had no control of the cafeteria, and he, like many students, must buy more than one portion.

And who says that the new menu is healthier? Yes, the new menu may be healthy for some students. What about our big and tall students -- the athletes, the person who skipped breakfast -- who need to eat more than students for whom the portions are sufficient?

Is the new menu benefiting them, too? They don't seem to think so.

"It's some [expletive] that they are giving us less food. They have us paying so much for little lunches. They should lower prices for lower lunches," senior Mario McWilliams said.

Are we not able to decide how much food we should eat? One could assume that the administration doesn't think so.

It would appear that they want to be our parents, our big brother if you will, our decision makers.

I believe that we, the student body, should be able to decide what is healthy for our individual needs.

Many have complained silently, but now is not the time for that.

Now is the time to go to the administration and bring to their attention that we are not receiving a better, healthier lunch.

To a certain point it's not even about the food. Yes, I like to eat just as much as the next guy, but the decision-making process is what bothers me.

Students are the majority, and we have the power to make change in the school.

That decisions like this can be made without so much as a flier sent to parents who do not partake in PTO should not be waved off.

Tell your parents, tell your counselor, tell Mr. Griffith that we will not stand for this.

Make your voices heard so our stomachs won't have to be.

> "It's some [expletive] that they are giving us less food. They have us paying so much for little lunches. They should lower prices for lower lunches"
>
> Mario McWilliams
> Senior

Su Dong • The Shakerite

Change secenery, change menu, too

'rite idea

While Shaker Heights High School continually publicizes its academic achievement, the system must evaluate and act on its problems in the cafeteria.

Lacking the capacity to serve the even one third of the student body who purchase food from the cafeteria is not to be taken lightly. Good nutrition is crucial to a strong academic environment as well as for student's health. Students make up for the small portions by buying extra helpings, leaving the later lunch periods without enough food. And how are those who receive subsidized lunch to compensate for modest portions? These problems must be solved immediately.

Secondly, a healthy menu in the cafeteria is almost non-existent. While local high schools such as Beachwood and Brush employ nutritionists, Shaker is still dishing out high sodium, high fat meals.

The cafeteria offerings are an embarrassment. With the renovation of the cafeteria itself, let's hope the powers that be overhaul the food served within its walls.

Cafeteria customers agitated by line cutters, unappetizing food, slow lines

letter to the editor

To the Editor,

I am a 15-year-old SHHS student and not a very happy one at that either. Why, you ask? Because of unfairness. People, mostly the African-Americans are cutting the lines in lunch, and the guards for the line are doing nothing about it. It makes me made because this happens every day. People who cut make those who have waited patiently really upset. When I tell some of the people, "You can't cut in line," they say, "She's my cousin." And the girls have the audacity to believe these lies. Some people will cut to get "salad" or "ice cream," but they want food. I ask all the cutters: why can't you wait in line like the rest of us? Is this a hard thing to do?

Tony Bogan
Sophomore

Food, atmosphere, both lacking

To the Editor,

This year Shaker is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars extending and improving the cafeteria, but our cafeteria food is malevolent. Can't our lunch be both healthy and appetizing?

Most of my friends don't bother coming to lunch because of it. Teachers, if anyone's cutting class I bet it's during their lunch period: the lines take forever even with the new system.

Some only buy lunch to drink the free milk it comes with. Others buy from overpriced vending machines that aren't healthy either. Most days the vending machines are empty anyway. Sadly some would rather starve.

I leave fourth period lunch every day hungry, irritable and unable to concentrate in my afternoon classes. I want to say to the Shaker Heights community, please help me and my fellow students get better cafeteria food. Do it for those who don't have cars to leave during lunch, for those who aren't seniors and cannot eat better vending machine snacks, and for the ones who go famished through half the school day.

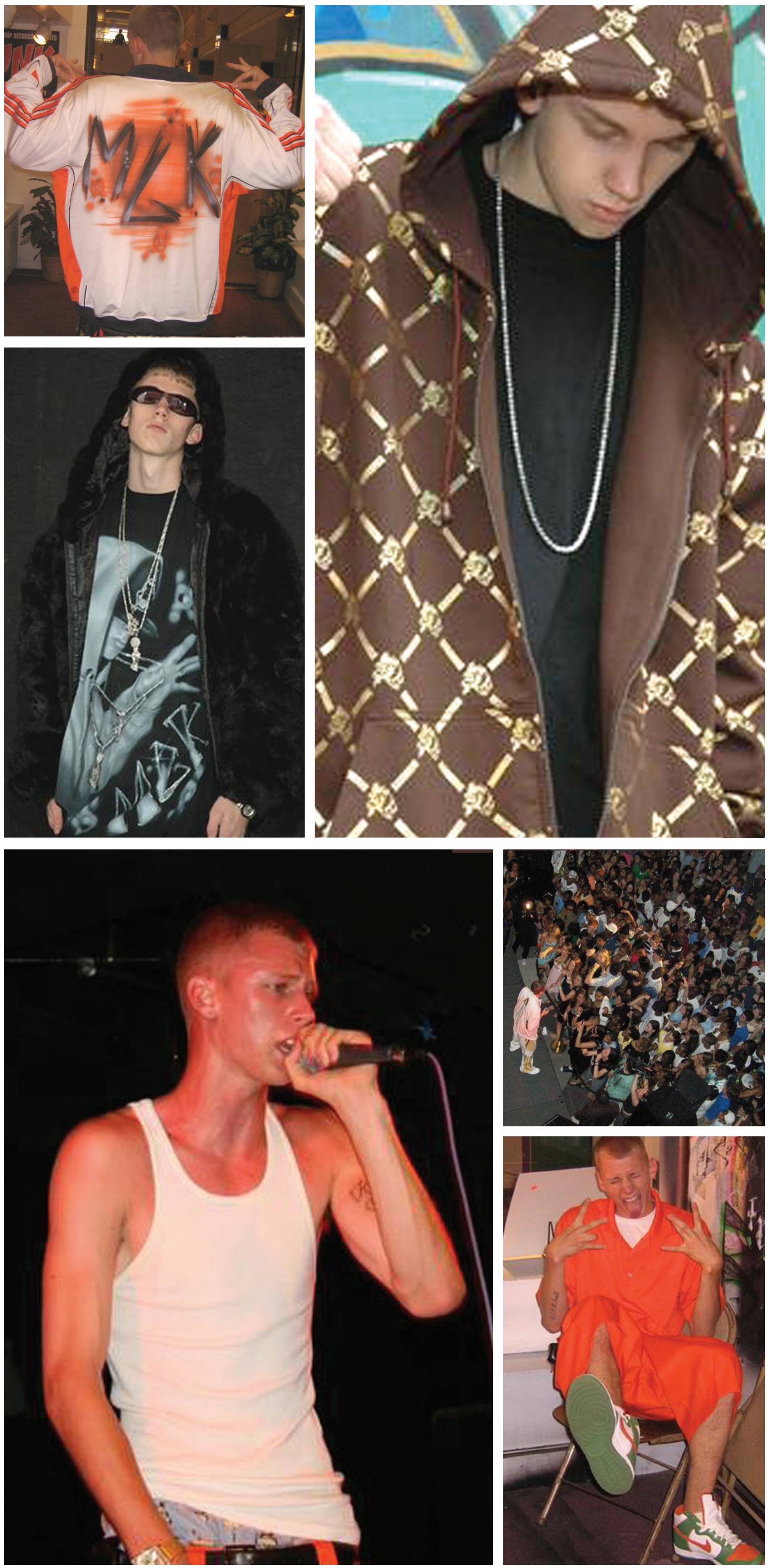
What you didn't know is for some students lunch is the only food they can eat maybe because of problems at home. Do you think Shaker has made a huge financial mistake? Is all the money going toward the building and nothing for the students starving in it?

Alesha Holloway
Junior

EARNESTLY AWAITING THIS YEAR'S FALL PRODUCTION

The Large Auditorium renovation has forced the Theater Department to use The Cleveland Play House for their production space. "It's very exciting, although I wish we were rehearsing in our performing space, just because it's going to be a difficult transition from the classroom space to the stage," said Miranda Margolis, a freshman playing Lady Bracknell alongside senior Jack Sutorius (right). "The Importance of Being Earnest" will run Dec. 5- 8 at the Cleveland Play House. Tickets, $5 for students and senior citizens and $10 for adults, go on sale Nov. 26.

SENIOR COLSON BAKER ACHIEVES FAME AS UPSTART NEW RAPPER, 'MACHINE GUN KELLY'



Courtesy of Colson Baker

COLSON BAKER IS a man of many faces: student by day and up-and-coming rapper the rest of the time. Originally from Denver, Baker, known on stage as "Machine Gun Kelly," recently released a 30-track mixtape that features rappers such as Chip tha Ripper and 6ne.

• Baker reflects on rapping, fame, hate

BY KELSEY DEFOREST AND SIMONE DUVAL
LIMELIGHT EDITORS

How did you get into music?

"When I was a kid, I didn't really fit in with anybody because I had just moved to Denver and everything out there was really big with rap. I went to, like, a predominantly black school and I was, like, this white kid with this really long hair and everything, so I was kind of goofy looking. I remember it was a big thing to, like, battle people back then and . . . I would, like, try but I couldn't even get past, like, the first line."

How long have you been rapping?

"I'd say I have been rapping at a major level for, like, a year and a half to two years. Most everything I do is not, like, publicized through the school. There is no point saying what I do because it's not going to be believed out there . . . . I'm not going to go out into the halls and, like, try to announce that I've been [on tour] with Bone Thugs [in Harmony] because it's, like, this little white kid, still in high school, in, like, your classes. You're not going to believe that the kid next to you in math class just got back from a tour."

> "You're not going to believe that the kid next to you in math class just got back from a tour."
>
> Colson Baker • senior

What do your parents think of your rapping?

"My dad . . . he feels the same way a lot of people feel when they look at me. I'm sure a lot of black kids look at me, like, I want to be black or some stuff like that. . . . After he's seen that there is, like, actual progress in it, that I am doing shows in front of a thousand plus people or hundreds of people and they are, like, cheering and saying my name . . . it kind of opened his eyes."

How did you create the name "Machine Gun Kelly"?

"That is a big misconception. Everyone thinks it is because I am, like, a thug and it's not. . . . Machine Gun Kelly came from, like, how I used to rap really, really fast and I still do and it's just really fast . . . . Machine Gun Kelly was also an old mobster's name. And he was a nobody until he robbed a bank and he shot up a chapel and he did all these things that no one thought he was capable of doing. And so this is, like, my way of saying that I am, like, taking over everything, which no one expects of, like, Colson Baker."

"Stamp of Approval" came out Oct. 12. How do you feel like it has been received?

"It's been great. We haven't gotten, like, a negative review. . . . You have to, like, listen to my album to appreciate it. You can't just hear it. I'm not going to make stuff that is going to make you want to . . . make up a dance."

How does it feel to have a CD out while you are still in school? Is it hard to keep grounded?

"It is so underground at school because no one knows about it. . . . It is ridiculous in Cleveland. I will walk around and have to sign autographs. . . . School does keep me grounded because I can't come here and be like, 'I'm the stuff' if no one knows about it. "

Do you feel like you aren't taken as seriously because you are a white rapper?

"I feel that hate is good. . . . I love when people take time out of their day to criticize me. Even if they are reading this article right now and they are, like, 'Oh, why does this kid rap?' and stuff. I'm, like, thank you for taking time in your day. It's, like, buy my CD and look at the inside cover . . . you'll see that your favorite rapper gives his stamp of approval."

• 'Stamp of Approval' given to Machine Gun Kelly's debut

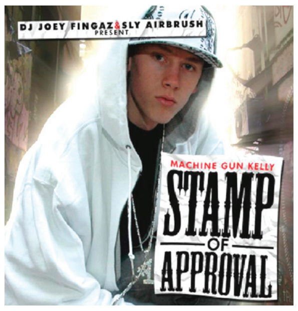
BY WESLEY LOWERY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A 30-track cocktail of drug references, gun violence, fast cars and big money, Machine Gun Kelly's recently released mixtape "Stamp of Approval" raises the bar for the next generation of Cleveland rappers.

And though MGK compares himself to Cleveland rap pioneers Bone Thugs in Harmony, his ability to lace hard-hitting lyrics over heavy bass lines is more reminiscent of hip-hop legends Dr. Dre and Immortal Technique. It would be easy to dismiss MGK as another want-to-be gangster rapper, but after listening to the first few tracks it's apparent that he has mastered the genre.

MGK makes up for the track count by shortening track length. Like most mixtapes, in "Stamp of Approval"the longest, "Y'all Ain't Got No Money," clocks in at 4:21.

In true mixtape form, MGK adds his flare to a few current hip-hop hits. His mix of Lil Wayne's "Duffle Bag Boy" is good, but nothing special; however his cover of Trick Daddy's "Lets Go," a 2004 hit that samples heavily from Ozzy Osborne's "Crazy Train," offers more lyrical content than the original.



SHAKERITE RATING:
★★★★☆

In "Chunkin' Freestyle," MGK's lightening-fast style combines with the best beat on the album to exhibit this young rapper's talent. On this track MGK makes one of many references to his race, saying "Please keep talkin'/ young, white, and rich like McCauley Culkin."

On the downside, MGK often makes the listener wait too long before dropping the hook. This is most evident in "MySpace to My Place," a 3:50 minute track that would be excellent -- if not for the first minute and half of the song.

"Stamp of Approval" provides an all-around quality introduction to a marginally unknown rapper. Look for MGK ascend to the role of a major player in the Cleveland rap scene.

POLOS NOT JUST FOR GOLF ANYMORE

Ever since the mid-19th century the polo has been a staple shirt for golf players and country-club members. Recently, however, the traditionally preppy style has been seen in rap videos and in the school hallways, making the switch from preppy to urban. In Shaker, 57 percent of students think polos retain their "preppy" connotation, while 23 percent believe that they are both preppy and urban.

SHAKER'S SUPER STYLISH TRENDS

• Students pay high price for fashion

BY TAYLOR SMITH AND EMMA BRESNAHAN
STAFF REPORTERS

While it costs a mere $16 to buy enough denim for a pair of jeans, many "fashionable" shoppers dish out an additional $300 for True Religion jeans. No matter the maker, students splurge on blue jeans in the never-ending quest to look good.

Stores at Beachwood Place such as Saks Fifth Avenue and Metropark sell jeans at prices ranging from $150 to $329. Employees say that customers buy designer jeans because of their quality, fit, design and logo, and because they are something to brag about.

Sophomore Teray Pope, who wears Rocawea jeans, said he sports designer jeans becau they look nice. He thinks teenagers purch high-priced jeans because of the designer brand. Pope buys jeans at Next and City Blue.

Yet Stephen Baum, a New York City jean designer who graduated from Kent State University's School of Fashion Design and Merchandising, said teens are less interested in brand names.

"Teens really are inspired by styles more than labels," said Stephen Baum. He has worked in denim design for a decade.

"Denim is an all-American lifestyle," Baum said, noting that tradition is one reason jeans – expensive or not – are so popular.

Students such as freshman Mackenzie Taylor try to achieve the designer denim look without going broke. She found Sevens at a discount.

"I bought them at a cheap price at TJ Maxx," she said.

Employees at Beachwood Place department stores say that True Religions and Sevens are tied in popularity among teenagers.

When it comes to buying fashionable jeans, you are likely to pay a high price. However, for the bargain basement price of $15.98, you can get two yards of fabric at Jo Ann Fabrics in University Heights and make your own jeans. So the choice is yours: fashion or bargain?

John Fletcher • The Shakerite

• Rainbow of styles for both genders

BY ADRIA KINNEY
THE BEAT EDITOR

Brightly decorated fashion accessories are no longer just for girls. Multicolored athletic shoes are a rising trend among teenagers.

Freshman Michael Wagner bought a pair of fake Bathing Apes online for $80, a considerably lower price than the usual starting sale price of $200. Bathing Apes are a line of brightly-colored patent leather shoes.

"I just liked how bright they were . . . the flashy colors caught my eyes and made me really want to have them. No one buys the real ones," Wagner said.

While customers are attracted to the color and design of the shoes, Wagner figures the media also factors in. "Back when I bought them, not a lot of people had them. Now, a lot of rappers wear them," he said. The popular song "Crank That" by rap artist Soulja Boy even contains a reference to Bathing Apes.

Junior Chris Combs owns purple Nike Shox. "I guess people are just more accepting of bright colors," Combs said. "It used to be that if you wore pink people thought you were weird."

Although Combs said he thinks it's OK that people spend so much money on these vibrant shoes, he personally would not buy them. "[Colorful shoes] are just not me. I think they're too shiny," he said.

Founded by Kevin Washington and Vince Manzanio, Heart and Sole Sneaker Boutique is a shoe store at 1781 Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights whose inventory includes brightly colored footwear. "It started from. . . not being able to find good shoes in the area," Washington said.

Washington thinks that colorful shoes have become a fad because they are unique. "It's because they're exclusive . . . crazy colors are hard to find," Washington said. He named Nike Dunks as the most popular selling shoe at his store.

"It's a really basic shoe, but they come in all sorts of wild colors and styles," Washington said. Heart and Sole Sneaker Boutique isordering women's shoes. "They may be even more crazy," Washington said.

Dylan Merriman contributed to this story.

Su Dong • The Shakerite

TEACHER TRAVIS COX is one of a number of teachers Shaker students chose as the most stylish.

• Teachers are trendsetters, too

BY VICTORIA FYDRYCH AND EMILY GROSS-ROSENBLATT
STAFF REPORTERS

In the complicated world of high school fashion, students aren't the only ones who dress to impress.

The media typically portrays teachers as unstylish. On screen, male teachers usually wear dress pants, a dress shirt, a tie and a vest or sports jacket. But at Shaker, teachers defy the standard by staying trendy while maintaining professionalism, since there is no teacher dress code.

One such trendsetter is science teacher Travis Cox. Does he consider himself stylish?

"Dang right I do!" he said. Cox describes his style as "casual and comfortable." He shops at Nordstrom, J. Crew and H&M.

Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson doesn't worry about students' opinion of his outfits but said he is influenced by teenage styles. He also believes that professional attire is crucial in order to gain the respect of students.

"It's important to show young people that an educator can present himself appropriately and in a cool way," he said.

As for the ladies, freshman Maeve Metheny said that Heather Baird, a freshman and junior English teacher, is stylish.

Baird said she considers her style to be "conservative preppy." Baird shops at a variety of places, including Gap and wherever she can get a deal.

"Teachers should be professional or else they won't get respect," said sophomore Robert Gleisser.

For teachers, administrators and students, the manner in which teachers dress requires a careful balance of comfort, function and professionalism.

• Teen tattoo popularity rising

BY JULIA CELESTE
STAFF REPORTER

This season, Shaker basketball fans will witness a trend NBA fans have long observed – players exhibiting some serious body art.

Ten years ago, Dennis Rodman, former NBA star, was considered abnormal for his permanent fashion choice. But many of Rodman's peers, including Cleveland's LeBron James are tatting up. As with any style trend, tattoos have migrated from the world of celebrities to high school.

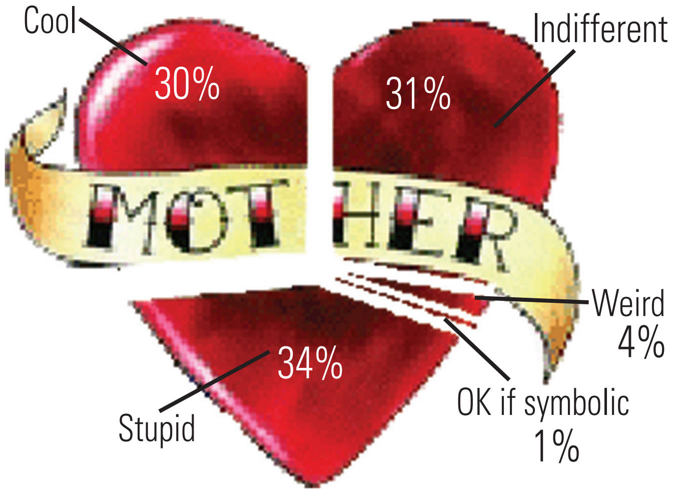
"I think it's a style thing," Shaker basketball coach Bob Wonson said of the motivation behind his players' tattoos. Two out of five seniors on the varsity basketball team have tattoos.

For high schoolers, obtaining a tattoo requires being 18 years old or showing a parent signature.

Senior basketball player Jeremy Hill didn't have to ask his mother before getting his two tattoos, one that he got over the summer and the other three weeks ago.

"She doesn't really care," Hill said. "My brothers and sisters all have the same one." One of Hill's tattoos depicts the image of a cross on his right bicep.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF TATTOOS?



A scientific telephone poll of 100 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/-9.8 percent.

Infographic by Diana Jack

THE SHAKERITE LAKE ERIE LEAGUE PRESEASON MEN'S BASKETBALL POLL

1. Euclid (3)	23
2. Cleveland Heights (2)	21
3. Mentor	13
4. Shaker	11
5. Shaw	6

The Shakerite Lake Erie League coaches' preseason men's basketball poll, with total points and number of first-place votes in parenthesis.

LEL coaches selected The Euclid Panthers as preseason men's basketball favorites. The Panthers, who finished third last year, edged Cleveland Heights. Last year's champion, Shaker, is predicted to finish fourth behind Mentor.

Su Dong • The Shakerite

JUNIOR KARISMA PENN rises up for a layup in a 63-38 win over Bedford. Penn led the team in points per game and rebounds per game two years ago but missed the entire season last year with a knee injuy.

WOMEN'S HOOPS TEAM EYES TITLE CONTENTION

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Although it has only been four years since Don Readance took the women's basketball head coaching job, it seems as though he has established the tradition he sought when he first came to Shaker.

"I knew there was talent here and I wanted to get some tradition here," Readance said. "As an outsider [coming from Cleveland Heights], I thought [Shaker] needed a toughness and an edge to develop."

Readance is a combined 45-23 as head coach, and comes off a season in which his team went 19-6 and won a district title. Now, they're a legitimate state title threat.

"I definitely think we're a state title threat. . .We have all the key elements needed to win," senior forward Lillian Pitts said.

After the graduation of leading scorer Shanna Thompson (Gannon University), junior Karisma Penn returns to the team after an injury-plagued year. Penn led the Raiders in points (13 per game) and rebounds (12 per game) two seasons ago, yet missed last season with a knee injury.

"It was harder watching from the bench towards the beginning of the season," Penn said. "But, they were beastin' by the end of the season."

Despite playing AAU basketball over the summer, Penn said she didn't work out all the kinks.

"I didn't get cleared [to play] until the end of July, which is when the AAU season ends," she said. "I was so rusty. . . I think most of it's mental since I missed all of last year."

The team began the season with a 63-38 win against Bedford, its first of only six home games. They will play 14 games on the road, six of which are tournament games. This includes a game against Division II state runner-up Hathaway Brown at the Great Lakes Classic and a rematch with highly ranked Regina, a team Shaker upset last year.

"We don't care who we play but [the players] want to measure themselves against the best teams around," Readance said. "Last year, we didn't face anybody of North Canton Hoover's caliber [until facing them in the playoffs]."

To get past the regional semifinals, the point where they lost to North Canton Hoover, Readance said the Raiders need to limit turnovers and pressure the ball.

"We need to do a better job of taking care of the basketball," he said. "We want teams to play the length of the floor so we have to control the tempo of the game."

Readance might want teams to play the length of the floor but he said his team could play at a slower pace.

"Our girls have to know that we're going to have to play at different styles. . . teams are going to hold the ball," he said. "We have to show that we can play at that level and score in the 40s, 50s and 60s."

The biggest reasons that Shaker can play a slower-paced game are 6-foot-2 Penn and 6-foot-1 Pitts, who is being recruited by Miami University.

"No one in the LEL can match up to our height," Pitts said. "Teams will try a 2-3 zone against us but we're versatile."

Shaker hockey takes a tumble with demotion to Red East

BY JOSH CURRY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Sam Weir doesn't hold back when he talks about the Shaker hockey team's demotion from the Red North to the Red East division.

"It is the ultimate insult to the team, organization and especially the coach," said Weir, a senior captain.

Last year the Raiders placed last in the Red North with a record of 1-8-1 in the league and 8-16-1 overall. Ignatius won the Red East, earning the opportunity to move back up to the prestigious Red North. Ignatius was the first team ever relegated after finishing last in 2005-2006. Unfortunately for Shaker, Ignatius readily made up for the shift, replacing the Raiders and joining hockey powerhouses St. Edward, Lake Catholic, Padua and University School this year.

In their new division, Shaker will join North Olmsted, Hudson and Benedictine. Last season these teams placed second, third and fourth, respectively. Although these teams are somewhat less formidable than Shaker's previous league mates, the Raiders do not take them lightly.

"There will definitely be some stiff competition," said junior right wing Bob Cirillo.

In the past seven seasons, Shaker has posted a losing record of 6-7-1 against these teams. While Shaker beat Benedictine last year, they lost to both Hudson and North Olmsted.

Shaker opens Red East play at home Dec. 1 against Benedictine and will continue the Bartley family rivalry with Hudson on Dec. 9. Bartley's son Matt, became head coach of the Explorers last year, splitting two games with the Raiders.

For as long as the Red North has existed, Shaker has played in the league. The team feels pressure to perform and move back to their "rightful position." "We definitely want to make Shaker proud and move back up so we can compete with the best of the best," Cirillo said.

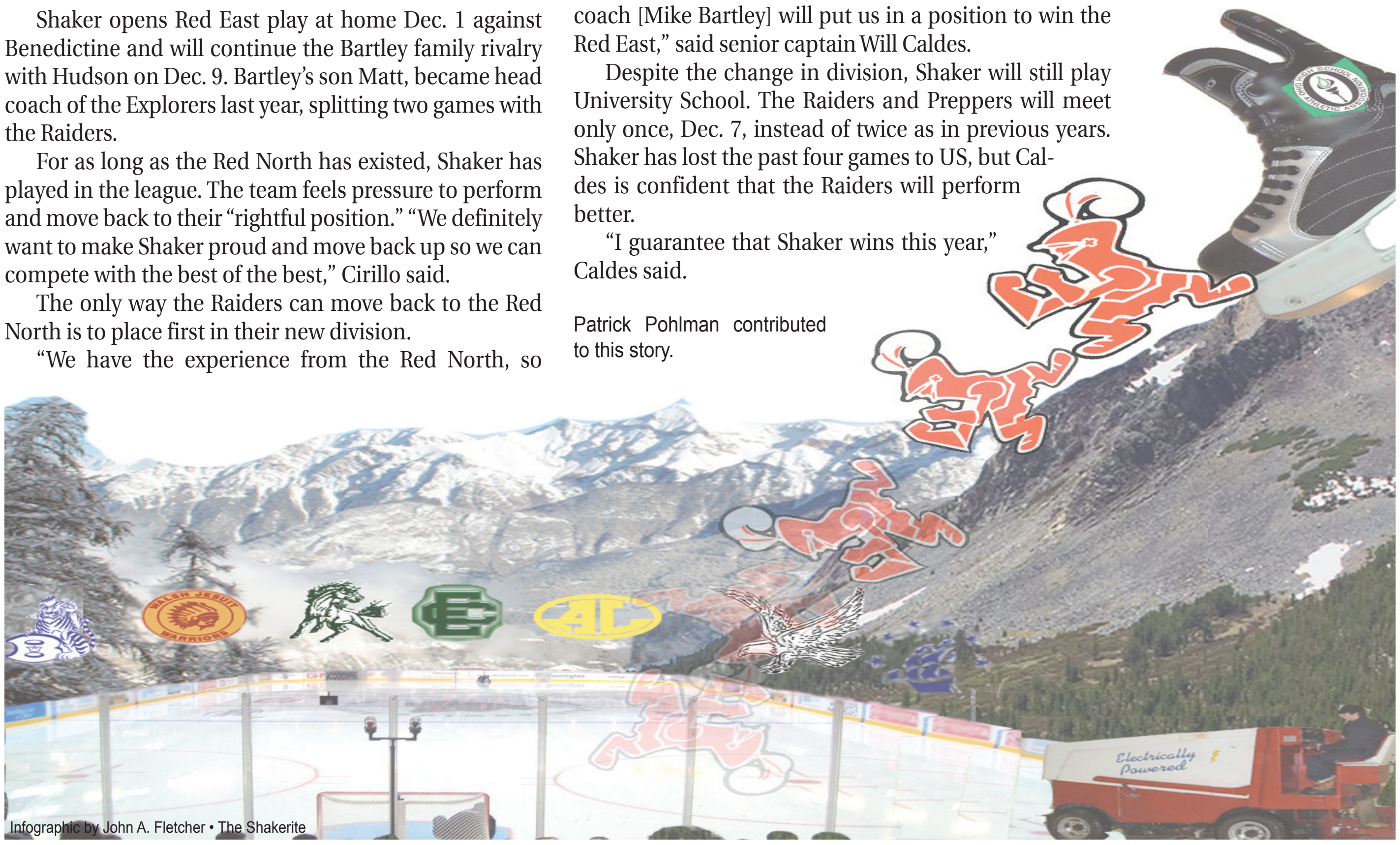
The only way the Raiders can move back to the Red North is to place first in their new division.

"We have the experience from the Red North, so coach [Mike Bartley] will put us in a position to win the Red East," said senior captain Will Caldes.

Despite the change in division, Shaker will still play University School. The Raiders and Preppers will meet only once, Dec. 7, instead of twice as in previous years. Shaker has lost the past four games to US, but Caldes is confident that the Raiders will perform better.

"I guarantee that Shaker wins this year," Caldes said.

Patrick Pohlman contributed to this story.



Infographic by John A. Fletcher • The Shakerite